



PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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TUBA CITY MAN SENTENCED TO 87 MONTHS IN PRISON FOR MANSLAUGHTER

PHOENIX, ARIZONA -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced that on June 17, 2002, Harry Yazzie, 6/18/58, of Tuba City, Arizona, was sentenced to 87 months of imprisonment with the Federal Bureau of Prisons, by United States District Judge Earl H. Carroll, in Phoenix, Arizona. He was also sentenced to 3 years of supervised release under the guidance of the United States Probation Department after his release from prison. Yazzie must serve a minimum of 85% of his sentence before he is eligible for release from prison.

On or about July 7, 2001, Yazzie, a member of the Navajo Nation, drove by his estranged wife's home near Tuba City, Arizona. He observed a car that he did not recognize parked outside. He let himself into the house with a key he still had and confronted his wife, who was standing in the kitchen. She told him that the car belonged to Ambrose DeJolie. The defendant became enraged, hit her and stabbed her in the hand which went through the hand and cut her chest. She suffered serious bodily injury as a result of the extreme physical pain.

The defendant, still in a rage, went looking for DeJolie and found him in the bedroom. He physically assaulted DeJolie and then chased the victim through the kitchen. As they reached the outside door, the

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defendant grabbed DeJolie by his ponytail and stabbed DeJolie in the neck. They wound up outside. The defendant reentered the trailer, looking for his wife. The couple's children tried to stop their father but could not. One of the children retrieved a .22 caliber gun and shot Yazzie in the knee to protect the mother. Only then did the defendant stop.

The neck wound suffered by DeJolie caused him to lapse into a coma and ultimately led to his death.

Yazzie had entered a plea of guilty on March 5, 2002 to Manslaughter and Assault with a Dangerous Weapon.

Yazzie received an increase to his sentence for the psychological trauma he forced his children to endure by witnessing the attack and having to shoot him to protect their mother

The investigation in this case was conducted by Navajo Department of Public Safety, Criminal Investigation Division and Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The prosecution was handled by Vincent Q. Kirby, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

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